



Dear members,

Dear partners of the Association Française pour les Emissions Négatives,

As I write to you, unprecedented fires continue to ravage California, just weeks after Cyclone Chido devastated Mayotte, while [Europe](#), which experienced 3 of the 10 most costly disasters of 2024, is still healing from the devastating floods in Spain. This urgency is even more pressing as our natural carbon sinks collapse. In 2023, the terrestrial ecosystem lost more than half of its atmospheric CO2 absorption capacity. In France, our forests now absorb half as much carbon as they did 10 years ago.

2024 was already a rich inaugural year, and the growing interest from multiple stakeholders shows that momentum is building.

- The [CDR Days Conference](#) gathered more than 200 leaders from startups to major corporations and investors - including national and international public stakeholders - demonstrating our industry's growing development.
- The debate around CDR is evolving, and a measured, science-based representation is increasingly being heard, as shown by articles in [Le Monde](#) and [Bon Pote](#).
- Important progress by our members illustrates this momentum: the world's first delivery of certified [ERW credits](#) through ClimeFi, recognition of Bloomineral by the [Bezos Earth Fund](#), and [NetZero's](#) selection for the [Xprize](#). The upcoming establishment of [Neustark](#), the [RepAir/C-Questra](#) collaboration in Grandpuits, and investments from [Engie New Ventures](#), [Stellantis](#) and [STOA](#) demonstrate the diversity of solutions made in France.

Despite a delicate political context since June, we have established constructive dialogue with key public stakeholders - ministries, DGEC, ADEME, Bpifrance, and members of parliament. Our contribution to the public consultation for low carbon strategy ([SNBC3](#)) proposes a clear vision: national CDR strategy, strengthened public research, accelerated project deployment, and strong international positioning.

Internationally, major progress has been made this year for CDR:

- [Canada](#) has committed to purchasing CAN\$10 million in CDR services by 2030.
- [Germany](#) is preparing its national negative emissions strategy for April 2025.
- The [United States](#) is accelerating thanks to the IRA by distributing the first development grants.
- In Europe, the adoption of the [CRCF](#) (Carbon Removal Certification Framework) represents a major advancement. By creating a robust certification framework and recognizing different levels of permanence, Europe is laying the foundations for a reliable and transparent market. The study of CDR integration into the ETS opens promising perspectives for sector financing and a framework conducive to certified project development.

France cannot remain on the sidelines.

Carbon Gap's study on France's potential demonstrates that our country will need to remove approximately 70 million tonnes of CO2 annually by 2050 to achieve its climate objectives. The potential is there:

second-largest maritime territory globally, recognized industrial expertise, cutting-edge research, decarbonized energy mix. For example, the development of storage infrastructure, in synergy with CCS/CCU, represents a major opportunity to anchor projects in our territory and build a strong long-term competitive advantage.

Building on these advances, AFEN will intensify its action in 2025 on several strategic fronts:

- The adoption of a national CDR strategy is crucial. The SNBC revision represents a historic opportunity to fully integrate CDR. Our recommendations are clear: defining distinct objectives for permanent CDR, implementing an ambitious public procurement program and strengthening innovation support. The American and German examples show that with a clear vision and appropriate support mechanisms, CDR deployment can be rapid and create value for all stakeholders.
- Industrial development and acceleration of favorable conditions for pilot project installation – particularly geological storage capacities – represent a particularly strategic axis. By rapidly developing infrastructure, we could not only anchor CDR projects in our territory but also attract foreign investment, as storage capacity is already becoming a limiting factor globally. This approach, which capitalizes on synergies with CCS/CCU, would position France as a European hub.
- The mobilization of economic stakeholders through expanding the buyer base, attracting new local and international players, and structuring financing mechanisms will be essential. Particular emphasis will be placed on engaging different groups, understanding current barriers, developing skills, and territorial anchoring of projects, ensuring shared benefits.

We will continue our valuable collaboration at the European level with Carbon Gap, the Negative Emissions Platform, and DVNE, to advocate for carbon removal that is scientifically grounded, economically viable, and socially just. The implementation of the CRCF framework and favorable conditions for project development will be essential for cost reduction and adoption of these new solutions.

We have a role to play! 2024 has laid the foundation for ambitious CDR development in France. The climate emergency and collapse of our natural sinks make this development essential. Progress to date demonstrates that with a clear vision and appropriate support mechanisms, France can meet its climate ambitions and quickly create economic value in its territory with a competitive CDR sector.

Finally, we all know that CDR development in no way reduces the massive emission reduction efforts that must be undertaken, as quickly as possible and by everyone. We urge all stakeholders to accelerate in this direction.

I warmly thank those who are committed to working alongside us. To others: join us!

With best wishes for 2025,



Julie GOSALVEZ,  
AFEN Chair of the Board of Directors